



Merging Duplicate Individuals







The goal of FamilySearch is to create one giant tree for all of mankind in which every person who ever lived is recorded exactly once.

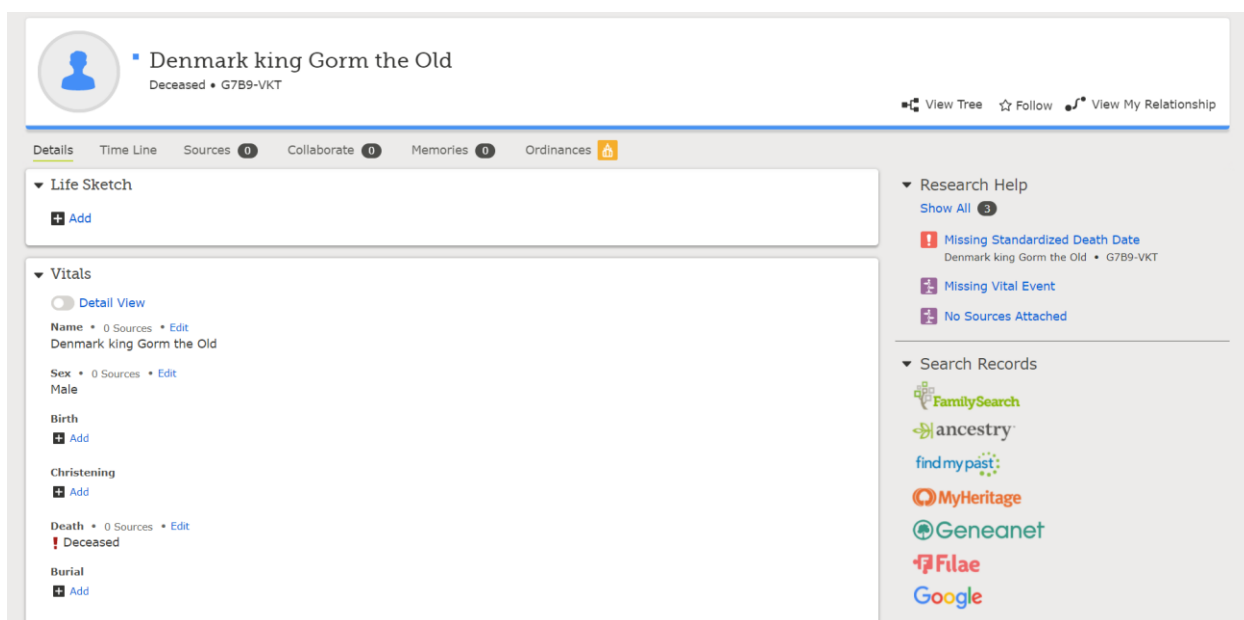
Why do duplicates occur?

- When a living person dies.
- new.familysearch.org the precursor to FamilySearch did not have a merge option.
- Information was dumped into FamilySearch from several sources including the IGI, Temple Index, etc. This accounted for many of the duplicates that FamilySearch was notorious for in the beginning
- Two people may be working on the same line but from different directions. For example, you may be in the US working on your ancestors in Sweden while someone in Sweden has your ancestor in their tree already and doesn't know where they went to in America
- A person adds their information into the tree, and it is different enough from what is already in the tree, that the algorithm doesn't recognize it. This is especially true for the royal families when they are put in in different languages. For example, one person might add "Gorm den Gamle," while another person puts in "Gorm the Old," another person puts in "Konge Gorm," another puts in "King of Denmark Gorm," etc.
- People are afraid to merge

People Found in the Shared Family Tree

1-20 Results of 26,670

Name	Events	Relationships
 Gorm " The Old" den Gamle Deceased • M6C8-FVD		Spouse  Beatrex of England Deceased • M6C8-FVL
 Gorm den Gamle 0895-0958 • G3TC-Q79	Birth after 0895 Jelling, Vejle, Denmark Death about 0958 Jelling, Vejle, Denmark Burial about 0959 Jelling, Vejle, Denmark	Spouse  Thyra Dannebod 0880-0935 • L8TJ-56P Parents  Hardeknud, Konge af Danerne 0870-0936 • L2RQ-6PC  Wife of Hardeknud Deceased • GDFS-8P4

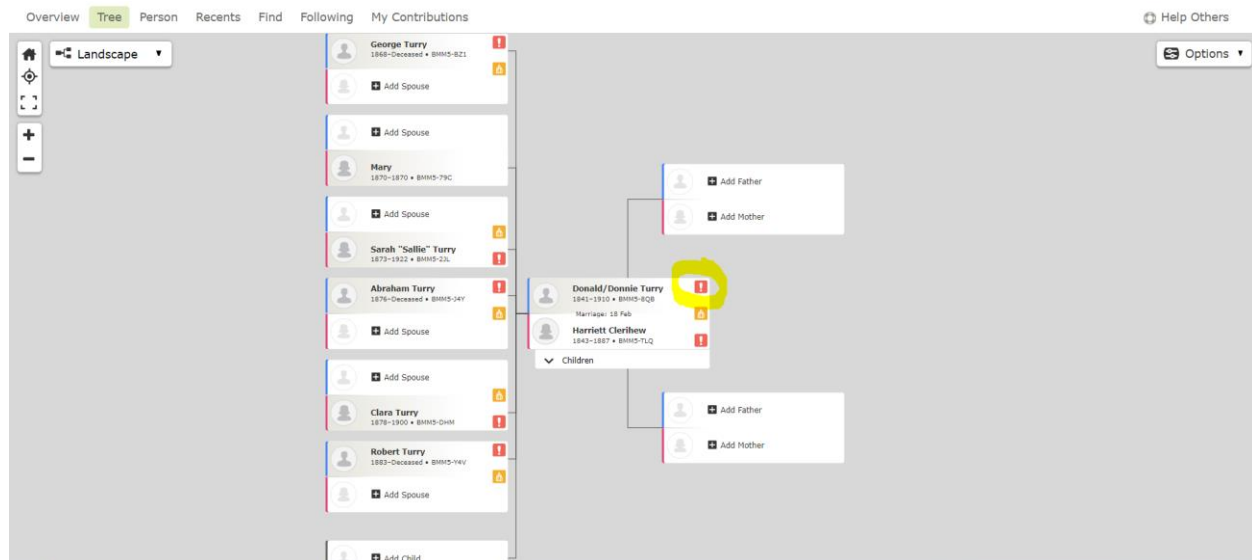



Key Things to Know

- An Individual can be merged up to 250 times. Sometimes a person has already hit this limit.
- Don't be afraid to merge but also don't be careless. A merge can be undone if necessary but it's best to get it right the first time.
- FamilySearch will search for merges for you. Sometimes it finds a duplicate that is not valid. Do not assume it is a real duplicate just because the website thinks it is. Increasing the amount of detail on a person decreases the odds of this happening. If your ancestor is simply Peder Nielsen born 1730 in Denmark the website will identify many Peder Nielsen's living all over the country that could be yours, providing a more exact county or parish (even if it is just an educated guess) of birth will help the website to better help you.
- You will be unable to request the person's ordinances until all duplicates are accepted or rejected.


Finding Duplicates

- If FamilySearch identifies a possible duplicate, a red box with an exclamation point will appear in the top right corner when viewing their pedigree in Landscape view and in the "Research Help" area on their person page. Only the first couple items can be shown there so you may need to click "Show All."
- You can also find duplicates by scrolling down to the "Tools" section and then clicking "Possible Duplicates"



 **Donald/Donnie Turry**
about 1841 – 1910 • BMM5-8QB

[View Tree](#) [Follow](#) [View My Relationship](#)

Details Time Line Sources **0** Collaborate **0** Memories **0** Ordinances 

Life Sketch
[+ Add](#)

Vitals
[Detail View](#)

Name • 0 Sources • [Edit](#)
Donald/Donnie Turry

Sex • 0 Sources • [Edit](#)
Male

Birth • 0 Sources • [Edit](#)
abt 1841
! TN

Christening
[+ Add](#)






Death • 0 Sources • [Edit](#)
1910
! Alabama

Burial
[+ Add](#)

Research Help
[Show All](#) **105**

- Missing Standardized Birthplace**
Donald/Donnie Turry • BMM5-8QB
- Missing Standardized Death Place**
Donald/Donnie Turry • BMM5-8QB
- Invalid Characters**
Donald/Donnie Turry • BMM5-8QB
- No Sources Attached**
- Possible Missing Child**

Search Records

-  FamilySearch
-  ancestry
-  findmypast
-  MyHeritage
-  Geneanet

■ Donald/Donnie Turry 1841-1910 • BMM5-8QB

Details Time Line Sources 0 Collaborate 0 Memories 0 Ordinances 1

Birth Name
Donald or Donnie Turry

Alternate Name • Edit
Birth Name
Ronald Turry

Alternate Name • Edit
Birth Name
*nald Turry

January 6, 2022
by BMM3-VLV

Child Added
January 6, 2022
by BMM3-VLV

Show All

▼ Tools

Possible Duplicates 99

Find Similar People

Merge By ID

Report Abuse

Delete Person Unavailable

▼ Print

Pedigree

Portrait Pedigree

Fan Chart

Family

Family with Sources

▼ Family Members

Spouses and Children
Show All + Add Spouse

Parents and Siblings
Show All + Add Parent

Donald/Donnie Turry
1841-1910 • BMM5-8QB
Marriage: 18 Feb

Harriett Clerihew
1843-1887 • BMM5-TLQ

Children (6)

George Turry
1868-Deceased • BMM5-BZ1

Mary
1870-1870 • BMM5-79C

Sarah "Sallie" Turry
1872-1877 • BMM5-711

Merging Duplicates

- In tree view, click on the red box and then click the blue “Review Merge” button.
- You will be lead through a series of three pages. On the first page you will review the two individuals, to determine if they are the same person. On the second you will choose which information is best, and on the third you will provide a reason for the merge you are doing.
- On the first page the person who will be deleted is shown on the left and the surviving person will be on the right, simply decide if they are a match. If they are scroll down to the bottom and click “Yes Continue” if not click “Not a Match” and provide a reason.

Step 1 of 3: Are these people a possible match?
BACK
NOT A MATCH
YES CONTINUE

Possible Duplicate
Information in this column will be deleted at the end of the merge.
Switch

Donald/Donnie Turrel
about 1841 – 1910 • BM97-GJB
Added: 27 January 2022

Vitals

Name
Donald/Donnie Turrel

Birth
abt 1841
TN
Non-standardized Place

Death
1910
Alabama
Non-standardized Place

Other Information

Alternate Name
Birth Name

Surviving Person
Information in this column will be saved at the end of the merge.

Donald/Donnie Turry
about 1841 – 1910 • BMMS-8QB
Added: 6 January 2022

Vitals

Name
Donald/Donnie Turry

Birth
abt 1841
TN
Non-standardized Place

Death
1910
Alabama
Non-standardized Place

Other Information

Alternate Name
Birth Name

- If you clicked yes, on the second page you will now choose which information you like best. Anytime the information on the left is better than the information on the right click the button that says “Replace” otherwise the information on the left will be deleted. Sometimes you may want to preserve the person on the left instead of the right, if so, click the “switch” button at the top.

Step 2 of 3: Select the information you want to save.
BACK
NOT A MATCH
CONTINUE

Possible Duplicate
Information in this column will be deleted at the end of the merge.
Switch

Donald/Donnie Turrel
about 1841 – 1910 • BM97-GJB
Added: 27 January 2022

Vitals

Name
Donald/Donnie Turrel

→ REPLACE

Sex
Male

→ REPLACE

Birth

Surviving Person
Information in this column will be saved at the end of the merge.

Donald/Donnie Turry
about 1841 – 1910 • BMMS-8QB
Added: 6 January 2022

Vitals

Name
Donald/Donnie Turry

Sex
Male

Birth

- After clicking continue you will be led to the final page where you provide a reason for your merge. You can type anything you want in this box, or you may choose one of the pre-filled boxes by clicking the word “Add” on the desired box. Whatever you choose will be visible to others. Choosing a good reason helps ensure someone will not alter it later.

Click “Finish Merge” to complete the process.

Step 3 of 3: Confirm your changes by finishing the merge.BACKNOT A MATCHFINISH MERGE

Reason For Merge

Explain why you think this merge is correct.

Suggested Reason Statements [Learn More](#)
You may select one of these statements to add to your reason statement.

All vital information and relationships match. ID numbers: BM97-GJB and BMM5-8QB.
[ADD](#)


Most vital information and relationships match. Some details contain minor conflicts. ID numbers: BM97-GJB and BMM5-8QB.
[ADD](#)

Most vital information and relationships match. No details conflict. ID numbers: BM97-GJB and BMM5-8QB.
[ADD](#)

This record contains little information: BM97-GJB. There is enough evidence to believe it is the same person as BMM5-8QB.
[ADD](#)

Confirm Changes

Green boxes are indicators of newly added or changed conclusions.

**Donald/Donnie Turry**
about 1841 – 1910 • BMM5-8QB

Vitals

Name
Donald/Donnie Turry

Birth
abt 1841
TN
Non-standardized Place

Death
1910
Alabama
Non-standardized Place

Manual Merging

- Sometimes you know two people are duplicates even though the website has not realized it. In this case scroll down to the “Tools” section on a person’s page and click, “Merge by ID” then paste in the FamilySearch ID number of the known duplicate.

Annette Zollinger 1943–2021 • KWZB-H13

Details Time Line Sources 3 Collaborate 0 Memories 1 Ordinances 1

☐ Detail View [Add Information](#)


Alternate Name • [Edit](#)
Married Name
Annette Grover


Alternate Name • [Edit](#)
Birth Name
Annette Zollinger

Residence • [Edit](#)
01 Jan 2006–01 Oct 2007
Kennewick, Washington, United States

Family Members


Spouses and Children
Show All [Add Spouse](#)


**Clarence Leavitt Grover**
1927–2018 • KWZB-H1S
Marriage: 27 December 1983
Bellevue, King, Washington

**Annette Zollinger**
1943–2021 • KWZB-H13


Children (0)
[Add Child](#)


Parents and Siblings
Show All [Add Parent](#)

**Dallas Zollinger**
1913–2008 • KWXC-WCJ
Marriage: 10 November 1937
Logan, Cache, Utah, United States

**Margaret Hovey**
1916–2009 • KWXC-WCV

Children (4)

**Annette Zollinger**
1943–2021 • KWZB-H13

**Richard Dallas Zollinger**

[Couple Source Attached](#)
December 7, 2021
by Tanner Blair Tolman

[Photo Attached](#)
December 7, 2021
by Tanner Blair Tolman

Show All

Tools

[Possible Duplicates](#) 1

[Find Similar People](#)

Merge By ID

[Report Abuse](#)

[Delete Person Unavailable](#)

Print

[Pedigree](#)

[Portrait Pedigree](#)

[Fan Chart](#)

[Family](#)

[Family with Sources](#)

Unmerging

- If two people have been merged incorrectly and it needs to be undone, go to the person

page of the surviving individual, scroll down to where it says, “Latest Changes” and click “Show All.” Any merges made will appear in the list. Click on “unmerge,” provide a reason, and then click “unmerge” again.

• Annette Zollinger 1943–2021 • KWZB-H13

Details Time Line Sources 3 Collaborate 0 Memories 1 Ordinances 0

Female

Birth • 2 Sources • Edit
10 March 1943
Idaho Falls, Bonneville, Idaho

Christening
+ Add

Death • 1 Source • Edit
23 April 2021

Burial • 1 Source • Edit
South Ogden, Weber, Utah, United States of America

▼ Other Information

☐ Detail View

Alternate Name • Edit
Married Name
Annette Grover

Alternate Name • Edit
Birth Name
Annette Zollinger

Residence • Edit
01 Jan 2006-01 Oct 2007
Kennewick, Washington, United States

MyHeritage
Geneanet
Filae
Google

▼ Latest Changes

Merge Completed
December 7, 2021
by Tanner Blair Tolman

Couple Source Attached
December 7, 2021
by Tanner Blair Tolman

Photo Attached
December 7, 2021
by Tanner Blair Tolman

Show All

▼ Tools

Possible Duplicates 0

Find Similar People

• Annette Zollinger 1943–2021 • KWZB-H13

All Changes FILTER

Change	Value	Date	
▼ Merge	<div> <div>Surviving Person</div> <div>Annette Zollinger 1943–2021 • KWZB-H13</div> </div> <div> <div>Deleted Person</div> <div>Annette Zollinger 1943–2021 • LXC1-8R2</div> </div>	December 7, 2021	UNMERGE
	Reason This Information Is Correct All vital information and relationships match. ID numbers: LXC1-8R2 and KWZB-H13.		
Vital Added	Death 23 April 2021	November 29, 2021	CURRENT
Alternate Name Deleted	Birth Name Annette Zollinger	June 9, 2016	
Event Added	Couple Event Marriage 19831227 Bellevue, King, Washington	November 29, 2015	REFERENCE